



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Moreton Bay Rail Link**

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (12.21 pm): I rise to address the House on how the Moreton Bay Rail Link is generating and supporting jobs in the electorate of Murrumbidgee. Last week I was fortunate to have the Deputy Premier and member for South Brisbane in my electorate along with the federal Minister for Territories, Local Government and Major Projects. We were also accompanied by the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe and the member for Kallangur. We were inspecting the now-ready Mango Hill station on the Moreton Bay Rail Link and I was very pleased to show it off and particularly pleased to talk about how this infrastructure project will be a great boon for local jobs. Looking over the station and all of the activity that was happening around it, it was very clear that the Palaszczuk government is delivering infrastructure that is delivering jobs—jobs now, jobs for the future. The Moreton Bay Rail Link will have a great impact on creating and supporting jobs for locals and will open up job opportunities for the residents of Murrumbidgee. Firstly, it will create jobs. Over 800 direct jobs have been created at the peak of construction and many local jobs are supported by this construction. One example of local jobs being supported is the bus drivers of Thompson Bus Services, a local bus company. It is used nearly every week for all of the tours and visits over the site. Another is Moody Civil & Pipe, accredited suppliers of the sewer and water infrastructure, based at Brendale. Another is Holcim, who employs hundreds of local people and supplies the ballast under the tracks. Its quarries and batching plant and delivery drivers are based at Narangba and Brendale.

Secondly, the Moreton Bay Rail Link will support jobs for local residents, especially in residential construction. This approximately \$1 billion infrastructure project is creating development opportunities around our stations. It is a catalyst for housing growth along the alignment. Around the stations, construction is booming. New streets full of new houses are being created each month. Many different housing products are being built within 400 to 800 metres around stations, walking distance to the station. This is creating new communities and new housing choices for residents in my electorate. Thirdly, the Moreton Bay Rail Link will make it easier for locals to access more job opportunities. It will provide transport to the major employment centres both within and outside the Moreton Bay region. Within our local communities there will be a train line that has 17 trains in morning peak hour and 15 in the afternoon. That is one train every six to 12 minutes. It will be an average 55-minute journey between Kippa-Ring and Brisbane Central. For young people in Deception Bay—a place where unemployment went up to about 18 per cent under the former LNP government—it creates a brand-new chance to go to where the jobs are or to travel to TAFE, college or university. The Moreton Bay Rail Link is in fact an example of Labor planning for infrastructure and delivering infrastructure that delivers jobs for Queenslanders—jobs for now and jobs for the future.

The decision to build it was a crucial decision—a crucial initiative—by federal Labor and state Labor governments. It is Labor that is delivering an infrastructure plan in 2015 for Queensland—a state that has not had a coordinated plan for infrastructure investment since 2011. Labor has also brought in

Building Queensland which will lay out the infrastructure pipeline to support jobs now and jobs in the future. Supporting job-creating infrastructure is central to the Palaszczuk government's first budget which has delivered over \$10 billion this year in infrastructure funding. Our capital program will ensure a consistent flow of works that will support jobs growth and support more than 27,000 full-time equivalent jobs. In roads and transport related infrastructure projects, 10,500 jobs will be supported, with almost \$4 billion committed for grants for projects in this network. The Moreton Bay Rail Link is clearly already transforming the electorate of Murrumba as well as Kallangur and Redcliffe. This Labor initiated and driven project is creating opportunities for local businesses and development and it is creating a boon for local jobs and job opportunities. Labor is committed to creating jobs and growing and diversifying our economy and I know we can deliver on this commitment through delivering crucial infrastructure such as the Moreton Bay Rail Link. We certainly look forward to next year to be on the first passenger train that heads out from Kippa-Ring.